



7725 W. North Avenue
Wauwatosa, WI 53213-0068
(414) 479-8936

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William Wucherer, Health Officer, City of Franklin Health Department, (414) 425-9101

For Immediate Release

Confirmed Case of Measles in Franklin

Public Health Officials Stress Importance of Routine Vaccination

FRANKLIN, WI – Franklin Health Department staff are investigating a confirmed measles case in a 23-month-old resident. The child was hospitalized on March 31, with laboratory confirmation on April 4. The child is currently recovering. The child attended daycare centers while infectious during the week of March 24 in Greendale and Greenfield. The child last attended daycare in Greenfield on March 28.

Health department officials have been working closely with neighboring jurisdictions to identify exposed children in the daycare centers to identify the source of the illness and to limit spread within the community. Immunization records of children at the Greenfield daycare center have been reviewed and health department staff have contacted children without MMR vaccine. Families of children that may have been exposed at the Greendale daycare center have been contacted to assure appropriate immunization against measles.

Measles virus spreads easily and rapidly through airborne droplets from coughing or sneezing. Symptoms of measles include cold-like symptoms (cough, runny nose, high temperature, and red/watery eyes) followed by a red, blotchy rash appearing at the hairline and spreading across the body. Symptoms generally appear 8-12 days following exposure, which means children exposed to the case on the last day of infectious period would exhibit symptoms of illness April 7 through April 13.

Measles is a vaccine-preventable disease and children are routinely immunized for measles at one year of age. Immunization provides excellent immunity following the first dose of vaccine. Children under one year of age are at highest risk for developing illness since they cannot receive the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine.

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